



THE BULL'S EYE BULL-E-TIN

Vol. IV No. 3

REPORTS FROM OUR TENT HOSTS - GMHG, GOLDEN AND CHINO

Some excerpts from Charles Trumbull's report on activities at the Grandfather Mtn. Games: "Back from GMHG with the results being not too good. The only Clan member there were Bob Foster and myself (and spouses, of course.)" "Friends of ours, the Rob Roy MacGregor Converses, assisted at the tent, as did the Fosters. He and Bob marched with me in the Parade of the Tartans. They led carrying our "I Saved the King" banner and I followed with our Tartan. We got lots of cheers and many spectators took our picture because of the "I Saved the King." I took part in the Thursday evening Calling of the Spirits of the Clans, which was the same as last year. Jane and I went to the Friday night reception and partook of the haggis, the flavor being greatly enhanced by a large dallop of Scotch poured over each serving. After the reception we went to the Ceilidh for an hour and a half and then on to the country dancing. Saturday we stuck close to the tent and had quite a few visitors. That night to the Tartan Ball where we saw our banner (Tartan) hanging right alongside the entrance door. Sunday I carried our Tartan at the Kirkin'o' the Tartan. Afterward Jane and I attended the luncheon meeting of the Games Council in the Chief's Tent. The usual photo was taken. Quite a few people commented on the beauty of our dress tartan. Jane and I had our picture taken for inclusion in the next issue of The Highlander magazine. (Sept/Oct issue, page 25). We both enjoyed representing the Clan very much and I am sure we would like to do it again next year."

Velle and family once again represented the Clan at the Golden Games, Golden Co. Velle reports that after a hot-humid summer, August 13th, the day of the Games was an excellent day, a few clouds and a breeze. They had a good crowd, 5,300 people, but not many Turnbolls.

From the Chino, CA. Games we received a phone report from Donna and Norman who hosted that tent. Few Turnbolls, but lots of visitors asking for background on the Clan and complimentary comments on the Tartan and banner.

All agreed that even with the lack of response by the members that this type of activity is warranted and necessary. It helps to reach those who share a Turnbull heritage but who do not carry the Turnbull surname. In most cases, the visitors knew, or were related to a Turnbull and offered to carry the message.

From all of us to all of you a very hearty THANK YOU for a job well done.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

SCOTLAND - A postcard from Spain, dated October 10th has been received from Myra. "Enjoying 2 weeks with Della and Rorry in a friend's flat. Very hot so we spend a good part of the day in the sea. Glad you had a good trip to Australia. Will try to tackle Clan mail on return U.K. Had many Turnbull visitors this summer. Our big family likes to keep on the move."

AUSTRALIA - From Jim and Shirley and our other "cousins" in Australia I bring first hand greetings of love and best wishes.

Bill and I spent 23 days touring around Australia. One long weekend was spent in

Sydney with Jim and Shirley. We had a wonderful exchange of Clan matters, ideas, materials and fun. Prior to our departure Jim had requested details of our itinerary which was not fully complete at that time. Much to our surprise and pleasure he had notified certain Australian members to contact us at some of our stops. It was a wonderful "People to People" experience. It is our desire that when our Australian "cousins" come a'visiting that we can reciprocate with the same warmth and hospitality.

This was our third trip to Australia and must report that yes there is a Town called Alice. A very unique place, a must see for all visitors.

GENEALOGY

A search for the book: John F. Turnbull's HISTORY OF THE TURNBULL FAMILY OF DIGBY, NOVA SCOTIA has brought the following reply from the House of Books, Anaheim, CA. "Just a note to touch bases with you on your request for (above mentioned book). Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find it but haven't given up yet. I wrote to the publisher, BOOK SOCIETY OF CANADA on Aug. 25 but never received an answer. I'm going to write to a University in Canada that might have it in their collection. These genealogies become scarce because they are usually privately printed and only in small numbers and then are kept by the families who have ordered them by subscription. Don't give up."

In response to a request submitted by Mrs. Ella Leigh, Manassas, VA., some very interesting news clippings and articles have been donated to the Clan archives by John R. Turnbull, Columbia, S.C., the following is one of them.

News & Courier, May 6, 1974 "Do You Know Your Charleston?" by Robert P. Stockton, Staff Reporter - "TRAGEDY LED GREEKS TO LOWCOUNTRY".

A tragic attempt to settle the Florida wilderness brought Charleston's first Greek citizens to this city.

Ceremonies in memory of Mrs. Maria Gracia Turnbull will be held Saturday at her grave in St. Philip's Churchyard. The service will be sponsored by the Charleston Chapter, American Hellenic Educational Progressive Assn. (AHEPA).

The recognition of Mrs. Turnbull as the first known Greek resident is part of the Charleston County Bicentennial Committee's Founders' Festival - Greek Emphasis, for which the month of May has been set aside.

Born in 1736 in Smyrna, Asia Minor, a daughter of a Greek merchant, Maria Gracia Dura Bin was married to Dr. Andrew Turnbull, organizer of the ill-fated New Smyrna colony, near what is now New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

After the Peace of Paris in 1763, England took possession of the former Spanish Colony of Florida. As most of the Spanish settlers had left the colony for Cuba, the British had the country.

It was decided to bring to the sub-tropical country people whose religion "will be a bar to their forming connections with the French or Spaniards; and who will readily intermarry and mix with our own people there."

The Greeks of the Levant were accustomed to a hot climate and the cultivation of cotton, tobacco and other staples, were sober and industrious and would be happy to leave their Turkish rulers, it was reported.

Dr. Turnbull secured a grant of 40,000 acres in conjunction with Sir William Duncan, on the East coast of Florida, with the requirement from the English government that it be settled within 10 years with one person per hundred acres.

Financing his project with bounties from the government and the Board of Trade, Turnbull visited various Mediterranean ports in 1767, enlisting colonists.

Turnbull's fleet of eight ships with 1,403 colonists from Greece, Minorca, Italy, Corsica and Mahon, left Gibraltar on April 17, 1768. During the long voyage, 148 died and 1,255 survived to reach Florida.

Turnbull's agents in St. Augustine expected him to arrive with only 500 colonists, and provisions were insufficient.

The colonists, however, survived the 75 mile trip south to the site of New Smyrna, which Turnbull had named in honor of his wife's birthplace.

Food was short, sickness was rampant. The whole area was called "the Mosquitoes," for good reason. Clouds of the insects swarmed everywhere, bringing malaria to add to the colonists' miseries.

By the end of the year, 450 of the 1,255 who had left St. Augustine had died. During the life of the colony (1768-1777), a total of 964 persons died of starvation and sickness.

Turnbull and his partners had difficulty raising funds for the colony. The colonists had been promised freedom after four to six years indentured service, but the colony was in such bad financial straits that the colony owners refused to discharge the colonists after the end of their service, and confined them to the colony.

After repeated petitions for freedom, conditions at New Smyrna became an open scandal in London and the colonists were released from indenture by Turnbull's attorneys.

Most of the colonists left for St. Augustine and Turnbull was imprisoned there for debts to his creditors in England. Mrs. Turnbull and her children apparently remained in Florida while Turnbull was in prison.

Joshia Smith, who was in St. Augustine in 1780-81, having been exiled with other Patriots during the British occupation of Charleston, wrote that one of Turnbull's daughter had married a man named Holmes who founded a colony near Pensacola.

According to Smith, "Dr. Turnbull and his lady," their children and servants, left St. Augustine for Charleston in 1781.

Dr. Turnbull preceded his wife in death. She died Aug. 2, 1798, at age 62. Her obituary in the Gazette noted that during her years in Charleston she had been much admired for her pleasant temperament and for her graces as a lady.

The Turnbull's most notable offspring was Robert James Turnbull, who originated the Nullification movement in South Carolina.

We are indebted to Jim-Australia for material from a book called "Rulewater and Its People" "An Account of the Valley of the Rule and its Inhabitants" by George Tancred of Weens, Late 17th Lancers and Royal Scots Greys, Author of "The Annals of a Border Club" - Eainburgh Printed at the University Press by T. and A. Constable 1907. There is reason to believe it is out of print, a search is being requested.

The book deals in part with The Turnbells of Mynto, Hartishaugh, Swanshiel, Chesterhall, Turnbull of Buccleuch House, Melrose, connection, Spittal-on-Rule, Nursery House, Bonchester Bridge, and Denesyde.

In addition to the Turnbull's it also gives coverage to the Olivers, Elliots, Humes, Scotts, Cranstouns, Kerrs, Rutherfurds, Cumyns, and Douglas.

With this issue, and future Newsletters, portions of the book pertaining to the Turnbells will be enclosed. Please save these pages until you have acquired the entire series for your files. It is regretted that the way these pages were set up in their original form, it will be difficult to enclose an entire chapter at any one mailing. Perhaps, at a later date, the distribution process can be speeded up. It is not our intention to keep you in suspense, it is a matter of economics.

If the book generates enough interest the Scotpress, Unicorn Limited, could perhaps run reprints, on a subscription basis. A total of 75 subscribers are needed.

1984 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The 1984 membership renewal campaign is underway. The annual dues are still \$15.00. Adjustments will be made with Scotland at the time Myra responds to correspondence pertaining to their change from January to an April renewal.

Letters of invitation are also being sent out to several hundred names which we have collected from other members. If you have a list you have been intending to send us, please do so at your earliest convenience. This is our missionary work. Whether these folks join the Association or not, they will now be aware that we do indeed exist. Sometimes they put us in touch with their relatives whom we have been unable to reach, particularly those who do not bear our surname.

BITS AND PIECES

It has been a wonderful year of correspondence, contact, input, participation and cooperation. Thanks to all of you for making my job easier.

The July/Sept. issue of the Claymore, page 6 and the Sep/Oct issue of the Highlander, page 56, carried an article on the Turnbull Gathering at Costa Mesa, CA.

The Scottish Merchant, July issue carried a complete list of Clan and Family tartans, as recorded with the Scottish Tartans Society, as of June 1, 1983. The Hunting Turnbull and Dress Turnbull appeared for the first time.

The Scottish Tartans Society, is dedicated to the recording, preservation and promotion of the tartan. The Society's records contain the patterns of close to 2,000 tartans and checks. Eleven hundred of them have personal, clan, family, district or professional identification.

May you have love enough to light the way,
Friends enough to gladden the heart,
Faith enough to give you peace
Hope enough to brighten your tomorrows. (anon)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY, HAPPY, WONDERFUL NEW YEAR

CHAPTER IX

TURNBULLS: OLIVERS: BORDER SHEPHERDS

THE TURNBULLS OF RULEWATER

THE origin of this family is not known, although tradition tells a story that the king's life was saved from an infuriated bull by a man turning it in its mad career. As a reward for this act of heroism, the king designated him 'Turnebull.' Passing from tradition we will now adhere as much as possible to facts. The name of Turnbull, spelt in various ways, first became known in the fourteenth century. In the following century they increased in numbers, and in the sixteenth century they became so numerous and powerful, especially in the Rulewater district, that the Wardens of the Marches and other border barons were only too glad to obtain their military services by giving them every encouragement as vassals and 'kyndlie' tenants. It is a pity that so little is recorded of their good service, and so much mentioned in Pitcairn's *Criminal Trials* of their misdeeds. The Turnbolls were most helpful to each other in every undertaking, whether it was to slaughter an objectionable neighbour or to give security for each other's bonds.

From the source of the Rule to its confluence with the Teviot, almost the whole lands were occupied by the Turnbolls. On the north bank of the Teviot they were to be found in Mynto, Barnhills, Know, Hassendeanbank, Standhill, Firth, Rawflat, etc. Many of these families, both in Rulewater and Teviot, held small possessions in Ettrick Forest, which had descended to them from Bruce's days. It is recorded that twelve castles¹ situated in the valley of Rule were in 1545 burnt, plundered, and dismantled by the English, to whom the Turnbolls were most obnoxious. With all their faults, they were deadly enemies to the English, and wherever a raid took place on the middle marches, the Turnbolls were always to be found.

The Bedrule family held their lands by military tenure. It

¹ Among these castles and peels destroyed were Bedrule Castle, Ruecastle, also a peel there, Haltrule tower, the tower at Wells, Bonchester, Hawthornside, Langraw, and Wauchope Castle.

does not appear that they took any active interest in the political affairs of Scotland. The barony of Bedrule was not extensive, and from the records in H.M. Register House it is apparent that they got into monetary troubles at a very early date. It is a notable fact that they never borrowed money from each other.

There existed at one time a castle of great strength and importance at Bedrule, but little is known concerning it. The first recorded owners of Bedrule were the well-known and powerful family of Cumyn. They also held the lands of Linton, and a large portion of Liddesdale in Roxburghshire. Tytler says that before 1249 the Red Cumyn (No. 1) nearly caused a war between Alexander II. and Henry III. by erecting two castles, one in Galloway and another at Hermitage in Liddesdale. After the fall of the great house of Cumyn, between the years 1306 and 1325, King Robert Bruce granted to Sir James Douglas the whole lands and barony of Bedrule. These were the days when chivalry was in its greatest splendour, and grants for military service were of common occurrence. Douglas, who was ever watchful to add to his military followers, probably located the Turnbolls in his barony of Bedrule, of which he was superior.

In 1510 the Turnbolls got beyond all control, and set at defiance the authority of the Sheriff and threatened further aggression. It became necessary to send a force sufficiently strong for the purpose of intimidating this lawless clan into subjection. James IV., who was a most active-minded monarch, saw the danger of allowing the Turnbolls to become too powerful, so he determined to make an example of them. King James set out from Edinburgh and rode to Spittal-on-Rule, where he halted with a large and well-appointed following. The King issued a peremptory order for all Turnbolls in the district to submit themselves to the King's authority. The principal men of the clan immediately made their submission, coming before him in linen sheets, with withies about their necks, and put themselves 'in the king's will,' as it was termed. It is said that the King ordered every tenth man to suffer death, and Deadhaugh or Deadman's Haugh tradition marks as the place where the King's order was carried into effect. This example of royal authority had a good effect for a time.

At the battle of Sclaterford in 1513, which has been so ably described by Mr. Adam Laing, the Rulewater men, chiefly Turnbolls, did excellent service, which is described elsewhere.

Who built the castle will never be known, but we know that the family of Cumyn were predisposed to build castles of strength and importance. I am inclined to think that the Bedrule stronghold was their handiwork, and not that of the Turnbolls.

In 1566 Thomas Turnbull of Bedrule and a great number of nobles and knights attended at Edinburgh on the summons of Queen Mary upon her marriage with Darnley, and also gave assistance in suppressing an insurrection by Murray. Subsequently, however, the Turnbells and Rutherfords, with the burghers of Jedburgh, espoused the part of the Regent Morton and so counterpoised his opponents, the Scotts and Kers, on the Middle Border. The above-named Thomas Turnbull married Janet Turnbull, widow of Philip Bennet of Chesters, and in the year 1562-3 she brought an action against William Bennet as claiming to be tutor dative to Mungo Bennet, her son by the said Philip, in reference to his estate.

In a letter from Eure to Burghley dated 1595, it is said:—‘In the beginning of last week, 12th or 13th February, Sir Robert Kerr rode to Edinburgh with a number of Kers who are reconciled to him and Fernieherst. It is thought in revenge of the quarrel of the Trumbills which the laird of Buccleuch undertaketh. And so Buccleuch is strengthening the “Armitage” which lies too near us here—has also drawn most of the Elliots to his house at Hawick, [now the Tower Hotel,] and keeps an extraordinary number in the house there. (Signed), R.A. EURE, Hexham.’

In one of the last of the Border raids at the Redeswire—

Auld Bedroule had on a Jack,
Wi' a' the Trumbills at his back,
And did right weel I you declare.

This was Sir Andrew Turnbull of Bedrule, who, according to Sir Walter Scott, was so notorious a thief that Hume and Kerr refused to sign a bond of alliance to which he with the Turnbells and Rutherfords was a party, alleging that their proposed allies had stolen Hume of Wedderburn's cattle.

Some of the Turnbells secured heritable rights to their possessions, through good military service, or by purchase from the superior. To trace their descendants is most difficult, except in a few cases where they held their lands well into the eighteenth century. One of these families, the Turnbells of Hartshaugh and West Swanshiel, retained the latter property until 1778. With the help of title and other deeds I have been able to make out their pedigree for three hundred years. (See p. 249). It is stated in a MS. account of the Scotts of Bonchester, written in 1834, that ‘the Rev. William Turnbull, minister of Abbotrule, was in direct descent from the Bedrule family, and that this assertion was strengthened by the general consent and acquiescence of certain respectable gentlemen of the name, but at that date there was really no visible means whereby the descent could be traced.

The Rev. Mr. Turnbull died in 1765. His father would be born before 1700, and if Turnbull, late of Bedrule, was then dead and he was his heir, there could at that time have been no difficulty in tracing the connection.’

THE TURNBULLS OF MYNTO

The Turnbells of Mynto and their feudal vassals, unless in the case of a big Border raid, did not mix much with the Rulewater clan. The serious affray which occurred in Jedburgh at the Rood Fair day in 1601 was almost entirely a Mynto affair.

Thomas Turnbull of Mynto, Hector Turnbull of Firth, James Turnbull, called Baniest James, Mark of Bewlie, and his brother Robert, Andrew and Walter Turnbull accompanied by their friends, retainers, and dependants to the number of about thirty, all armed, entered the burgh by the Burnwynd Port in contravention of the usual proclamation by Andrew Ker of Fernieherst, the provost, and bailies, ‘that none should repair to the fair or market, but in a quiet and sober manner, keeping the King and the Provost's peace.’ Immediately on their arrival in the marketplace they appeared before the lodging, situated opposite the Cross, of Thomas Ker, brother to the Provost,¹ who was at home with his wife and family, and challenged him to come out of the house and decide the quarrel which then existed between them. The burghers flew to arms and a bloody contest ensued, during which many fell on both sides. In the midst of the fight Thomas Ker, accompanied by his servant Glaisher, emerged from his house and joined the affray. The people attending the Fair armed themselves with what weapons they could get hold of and ranged themselves on the side of their friends. The fight continued long doubtful, but at length the Turnbells having gained their object, the death of Ker, were overpowered by numbers and driven back. On the side of the townspeople there were slain Thomas Ker and his servant, and many were wounded. On the other side there fell Robert Turnbull of Bewlie and John Middlemist, brother of William Middlemist of Lilliesleaf Chapel, and there were wounded James Douglas of Fodhill, shot through the bowels. . . . David Davidson of the Kaims had his hand cut off, Mark Turnbull of Bewlie lost a thumb, and William of Know was shot in the groin. For their part in this affray several of the actors were tried, condemned, and suffered death.

Sir Thomas Turnbull of Bedrule, who was a feudal knight, and

¹ The old tower of the Kers of Fernieherst in Jedburgh was situated at the top of the Canongate, and when it was pulled down the land on which it stood was feued to the burgh for a small annual rent, and stones to mark where it stood were placed level with the ground and now forms part of the market square.

his two sons Walter and Thomas, were put to escheat as perjured rebels.¹ Sir Thomas with his sons gave much trouble. His daughter Margaret² married Edward Lorrane of Harwood, which marriage was very unpopular with the Rulewater Turnbolls.

The tenure of lands on the Borders in feudal times is difficult to thoroughly understand. The splendour and wealth of monasteries in the south of Scotland, with their extensive and well-cultivated land, equalled in extent the possessions of the most powerful barons. Their tenants held their farms on lease with certain stipulations as to rent and services to the monastery. They tilled the ground, and could fight when required. These were the yeomen of the Border. The great barons, who were also knights of chivalry, could bring into the field a numerous following. Of these were the feudal knights, who held their rank and lands from the superior for military services. The knights were allowed certain privileges, and after fulfilling certain conditions they held their lands in fee. Next came the feudal vassal, who, according to his contract, was obliged to serve his chief. These men were the rank and file of the army, and were possessed of small farms. The Wardens of the Marches could call upon all able-bodied men to turn out in case of need, in which case the tenants of the monasteries and the serfs were included. The relations of lord and vassal have undergone very essential changes. The feudal knight no longer holds his estate on the conditions of military service; but the feudal law has left many deep traces behind it, and where the substance has almost totally vanished, the form is in some instances not advantageously retained.

The family of Bedrule at this period, 1591, were steadily multiplying their bonds and liabilities and the wadsetters had already seized portions of the barony of Bedrule. The old castle was a ruin; Walter Turnbull, with his second wife Helen Lilico had fallen very low in the social scale. From the years 1616 to 1619 a great effort was made to bring the Borders to an orderly condition, and five special commissioners were appointed for that purpose, and held periodical courts for the trial of Border criminals. To Lord Cranstoun is due the comparative quiet which now existed on that part of the Scottish Border under his jurisdiction. This may be traced to the fact that he resided chiefly within its bounds. Old Turnbull of Bedrule, with his son and grandsons, had become such a nuisance to the neighbourhood having been denounced as rebels for injuries done to Stewart o Traquair, who at that time was owner of the Wells estate, in addition to other crimes, that their conduct called for immediate action on the part of the Commissioners. Lord Cranstoun, who

was the most active of that body, decided to remove old Bedrule and his troublesome family from 'the waste ground' they had occupied, as the Privy Council Register describes it. In this attempt he failed, although he offered the old man a comfortable home at Cranstoun.

Old Walter died not long afterwards, and in 1623 Thomas Ker of Cavers, who had lent money several times to the Turnbolls, got possession of the ruinous castle, fortalice, and most of the lands of Bedrule. William was now called the laird of Bedrule, and he must have been well up in years at that time. He did not enjoy the empty title long, but the exact date of his death is not recorded. His son Thomas was retoured his heir in 1668, long after his father's death. What Thomas Turnbull's reason was is a mystery, as a deed under the Great Seal of date 1649 had confirmed Andrew Ker, eldest son of Sir Thomas Ker of Cavers, knight, in the lands and barony of Bedrule.

It is recorded that Ker of Cavers allowed Thomas Turnbull to remain on sufferance for a period in Bedrule Mill with the addition of a trifling portion of the Mains of Bedrule until he could find a home elsewhere. Whether Thomas Turnbull was married is not stated. He seems to have remained in the Mill until 1672, and what became of him thereafter is not known.

About the same time the Turnbolls of Mynto sold their barony. John Turnbull, who died in 1641 when with the army at New-castle, had a son John who succeeded to Mynto, who was under age at his father's death, and who was anxious to be married. In consideration of his father's decease having taken place while in the public service, his request was granted by his superior, and he married Rachel Inglis. In or about the year 1672, with the consent of his wife, he sold Mynto to Walter Scott of Harwood, who only retained it for a short time.

The Turnbolls of Mynto seem to have been more orderly and submissive to their superior than the rowdy family of Bedrule. Although they had to sell their barony owing to debt, they did not disgrace the name of Turnbull by being branded as perjured rebels, as was the case with their Rulewater brethren.

The question now arises, what has become of this once large and famous Border clan? Their lands have departed from them, their name is still common in the Border district, but the descendants of their two chiefs cannot be traced in the male line. Fifty years ago the name seldom appears in the Army, Navy, or Civil Lists. They preferred carving out their own fortunes. In the mercantile world the name is well known, and the United States of America and Canada have accounted for a number. Their names are to be found connected with the various workshops of the world, and the great city of Glasgow is a popular resort

¹ Vide *Register of the Privy Council*, vol. i. pp. 153, 201; vol. iii. pp. 86, 236, 628

² Lady Margaret as she was called; vide chapter on Harwood.